AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for selecting a media processor to host a new conference, comprising:

receiving an indication of a need for a media processor ~~for~~ <u>to host</u> a new conference;

determining, for each of a plurality of media processors under control of a multipoint controller, a number of additional participants that can be supported <u>by each of said plurality of media processors based on a current number of conference participants on each of said plurality of media processors and based on a current CPU utilization percentage for each of said plurality of media processors in accordance with the following expression:</u>

<u>NbChannels = CurrentNbChannels x ((MaxCPUUtil/CurrentCPUUtil))</u>

<u>where CurrentNbChannels is a value indicating the current number of conference participants on a media processor, MaxCPUUtil is a constant value indicating a maximum CPU utilization percentage allowed for the media processor, and CurrentCPUUtil is a value indicating a current CPU utilization percentage for the media processor</u>; and

determining one of said plurality of media processors to host said new conference based, at least in part, on said <u>determined</u> number of additional participants that each of said plurality of media processors can support ~~and based on a current CPU utilization percentage for each of said plurality of media processors~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~determining, for each of a plurality of media processors under control of a multipoint controller, a number of additional participants that can be supported, includes determining a value representative of a current number of conference participants for each of said plurality of media processors~~ a CurrentNbChannels value of zero for an MP is set to one for calculation purposes and a CurrentCPUUtil value of zero for an MP is set to one for calculation purposes.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]]1, wherein said determining, for each of a plurality of media processors under control of a multipoint controller, a number of additional participants that can be supported, includes determining a value representative of a number of conference participants that may be supported by said multipoint processor before reaching the value representative of a current CPU utilization percentage for each of said plurality of media processors.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving an indication of a need for a media processor for a new conference includes receiving a request for allocation of a media processor for said new conference.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing data indicative of said one of said plurality of media processors.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

allocating said one of said plurality of media processors to host said new conference.

7. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining a value representative of a maximum CPU utilization percentage associated with each of said plurality of media processors.

8. (Currently Amended)   A method for selecting a media processor to host a new conference, comprising:

receiving an indication of a need for a media processor ~~for~~ to host a new conference;

determining, for each of a plurality of media processors under the control of a multipoint controller, a current number of conference participants and a current CPU utilization; and

determining one of said plurality of media processors to host said new conference based, at least in part, on said determined current number of conference participants and based on said determined current CPU utilization for each of said plurality of media processors, in accordance with the following expression:

NbChannels = CurrentNbChannels x ((MaxCPUUtil/CurrentCPUUtil))

where CurrentNbChannels is a value indicating the current number of conference participants on a media processor, MaxCPUUtil is a constant value indicating a maximum CPU utilization percentage allowed for the media processor, and CurrentCPUUtil is a value indicating a current CPU utilization percentage for the media processor.

9. (Original)   The method of claim 8, wherein said determining one of said plurality of media processors to host said new conference includes selecting one of said plurality of media processors based on each of said plurality of media processors ability to support participants in said new conference.

10. (Original)   The method of claim 8, wherein said determining one of said plurality of media processors to host said new conference includes selecting one of said plurality of media processors that can support a highest number of participants in said new conference.

11. (Original)   The method of claim 8, wherein said determining one of said plurality of media processors to host said new conference includes determining a number of new participants that can be supported by each of said plurality of media processors.

12. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 11, wherein said determining a number of new participants that can be supported by each of said plurality of media processors includes determining a value representative of a number of conference participants that may be supported by the multipoint processor before reaching the value representative of a current CPU utilization percentage for each of said plurality of media processors.

13. (Currently Amended)   A system, comprising:

a <u>device having a processor and a</u> multipoint controller <u>operating on said device</u>, wherein said multipoint controller controls a plurality of media processors and said

multipoint controller is adapted to select a first media processor from said plurality of media processors to support a new conference based on said first media processor's ability to support more additional participants than other media processors in said plurality of media processors based, at least in part, on said first media processor's current number of conference participants and based on current CPU utilization percentage in accordance with the following expression:

$$NbChannels = CurrentNbChannels \times ((MaxCPUUtil/CurrentCPUUtil))$$

where CurrentNbChannels is a value indicating the current number of conference participants on a media processor, MaxCPUUtil is a constant value indicating a maximum CPU utilization percentage allowed for the media processor, and CurrentCPUUtil is a value indicating a current CPU utilization percentage for the media processor.

14. (Original)   The system of claim 13, wherein at least two of said plurality of media processors are implemented in software and operate on different devices.

15. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 13, wherein said multipoint controller is adapted to determine a current number of conference participants for at least some of said plurality of media processors.

16. (Cancel)

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein said multipoint controller is adapted to determine a value representative of a number of conference participants that may be supported by the multipoint processor before reaching the value representative of a current CPU utilization percentage for said first media processor.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ An apparatus, comprising:

a processor;

a communication port coupled to said processor and adapted to communicate with at least one device; and

a storage device coupled to said processor and storing instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

receive an indication of a need for a media processor for a new conference;

determine, for each of a plurality of media processors under control of a multipoint controller, a number of additional participants that can be supported <u>by each of said plurality of media processors based on a current number of conference participants on each of said plurality of media processors and based on a current CPU utilization percentage for each of said plurality of media processors in accordance with the following expression:</u>

<u>NbChannels = CurrentNbChannels x ((MaxCPUUtil/CurrentCPUUtil))</u>

<u>where CurrentNbChannels is a value indicating the current number of conference participants on a media processor, MaxCPUUtil is a constant value indicating a maximum CPU utilization percentage allowed for the media processor, and</u>

<u>CurrentCPUUtil is a value indicating a current CPU utilization percentage for the media processor</u>; and

determine one of said plurality of media processors to host said new conference based, at least in part, on said <u>determined</u> number of additional participants that each of said plurality of media processors can support ~~and based on a current CPU utilization percentage for each of said plurality of media processors~~.

19. (Original)   The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said processor is further adapted to provide data indicative of said one of said plurality of media processors.

20. (Original)   The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said processor is further adapted to allocate said one of said plurality of media processors to host said new conference.

21. (Currently Amended)   An article of manufacture comprising:
a computer readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause said processor to:

receive an indication of a need for a media processor for a new conference;

determine, for each of a plurality of media processors under control of a multipoint controller, a number of additional participants that can be supported<u> by each of said plurality of media processors based on a current number of conference participants on each of said plurality of media processors and based on a current CPU utilization percentage for each of said plurality of media processors in accordance with the following expression:</u>

$$NbChannels = CurrentNbChannels \times ((MaxCPUUtil/CurrentCPUUtil))$$

where CurrentNbChannels is a value indicating the current number of conference participants on a media processor, MaxCPUUtil is a constant value indicating a maximum CPU utilization percentage allowed for the media processor, and CurrentCPUUtil is a value indicating a current CPU utilization percentage for the media processor; and

determine one of said plurality of media processors to said host new conference based, at least in part, on said determined number of additional participants that each of said plurality of media processors can support and based on a current CPU utilization percentage for each of said plurality of media processors.